

The Hong Kong Daily Press

No 4526

號五第百五千四第

日五初月四年申壬治

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 11th MAY, 1872.

六拜禮 號一十月五英 港香

[PRICE \$2 1/2 PER MONTH]

Arrivals.

May 10, SUNSHINE, Brit. str., 281, Taylor, Manila, 7th May, General—D. LARLEY & Co.
May 10, AFRICA, Brit. str., 553, Worsley, Singapore April 30th, Ballast—OAR-TAN.
May 10, NONPARTI, French bk., 308, Jones, Bangkok April 4th, Rio, GRUN & Co.
May 10, DUNA, Brit. str., 852, Mann, Saigon 5th May, General—AUG. HEARD & Co.
May 10, GLENBARROCH, Brit. str., 954, Hall, Canton 10th May, General—ANGUSTINE HEARD & Co.

Departures.

May 10, BREITEN WIL, for Whampoa.
May 10, PRIMO, str., for Shanghai.
May 10, CHINA, str., for Shanghai.
May 11, PARANA, str., for Shanghai.

Clearances.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE, MAY 10th.
Alden, Bess, for Portland.
Garibaldi, for Portland.
Junko, for Foochow.
China, str., for Shanghai.
Fai-chey, str., for Saigon.
General, for Saigon.
Canada, for Callao.

Passengers.

Pen Sunning, str., from Manila.
Mr. Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers and 3 children.
2 Priests and 13 Chinese.
Per Duna, str., from Saigon.
2 Europeans and 43 Chinese.
Per Nonpart, from Bangkok.
4 Chinese.

The following passengers proceed by the P. & O. Co.'s steamship *Titanica*, to-day, at noon.
Per Singapore—Major-General H. W. White, and three active servants, A. Cocker, Deputy Inspector-General of Hospital, and Lieut. D. B. Burr, A.D.C.
For Southampton—Mrs. Gillett, 2 children, and female servant, Messrs. C. P. Franceseen and R. Von Rosen.

Reports.

The British steamer *Duna* reports left Saigon on 5th May, had light winds and fine weather throughout the passage.

The British steamer *Sunshine* reports left Manila on the 7th May, had light winds and fine weather throughout the passage.

The British steamer *Gertrude*, Captain Devor, reports left Newport, Monmouthshire on 9th November, and the 18th November, had strong S.W. winds, first part, and N.E. trades to 7 N., then variable winds to 2 N., crossed the Equator on 26th December, in 27.53 W., then light S.E. trades and well to the Eastward until 30 S. and 29 W., from thence light variable winds from the N.W. to S.W., passed the meridian of the Cape of Good Hope on 5th January, in 42 S.; after which moderately fresh breezes from same quarter until 45 S., long 70 E., then from Westwardly winds to 30 S. and 10 E., then S.E. trades set in strong, and well from the Southward until 10 S., and 109 E., afterwards light variable and calm to Straits of Sunda; passed again on March 22nd; from thence Northwesterly and Easterly winds and calm with strong currents to Hongkong. Spoke the British bark *Perita*, on 4th April, in 29 S., off Palo Taya, 135 days out, from Liverpool to Japan.

Auction Sales To-day.

None.
COMMERCIAL BILLIARD REFRESHMENT ROOMS, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.
Open from 1 o'clock to 2.30 P.M.
J. H. WHITE.
At 550 Hongkong, 8th April, 1872.
ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.
THE annual rates for Fire Insurance on the various classes of Buildings and their contents will remain as follows until further notice, viz.:—
Dwelling Houses (removed from the town) and their contents. 1 percent.
Other Dwelling Houses (similarly situated) and their contents. 1 percent.
Offices and Godowns and their contents. 1 percent.
Other Risks by Special arrangement.
The following rates will be charged for SHORT PERIOD Policies:
Not exceeding 30 days. 4th per cent.
Not exceeding 1 month. 1 month per cent.
Above 1 month, and not exceeding 3 months. 3 months per cent.
Above 3 months, and not exceeding 6 months. 6 months per cent.
Above 6 months, and not exceeding 12 months. 12 months per cent.
Above 12 months, and not exceeding 24 months. 24 months per cent.
Above 24 months, and not exceeding 36 months. 36 months per cent.
Above 36 months, and not exceeding 48 months. 48 months per cent.
Above 48 months, and not exceeding 60 months. 60 months per cent.
Above 60 months, and not exceeding 72 months. 72 months per cent.
Above 72 months, and not exceeding 84 months. 84 months per cent.
Above 84 months, and not exceeding 96 months. 96 months per cent.
Above 96 months, and not exceeding 108 months. 108 months per cent.
Above 108 months, and not exceeding 120 months. 120 months per cent.
Above 120 months, and not exceeding 132 months. 132 months per cent.
Above 132 months, and not exceeding 144 months. 144 months per cent.
Above 144 months, and not exceeding 156 months. 156 months per cent.
Above 156 months, and not exceeding 168 months. 168 months per cent.
Above 168 months, and not exceeding 180 months. 180 months per cent.
Above 180 months, and not exceeding 192 months. 192 months per cent.
Above 192 months, and not exceeding 204 months. 204 months per cent.
Above 204 months, and not exceeding 216 months. 216 months per cent.
Above 216 months, and not exceeding 228 months. 228 months per cent.
Above 228 months, and not exceeding 240 months. 240 months per cent.
Above 240 months, and not exceeding 252 months. 252 months per cent.
Above 252 months, and not exceeding 264 months. 264 months per cent.
Above 264 months, and not exceeding 276 months. 276 months per cent.
Above 276 months, and not exceeding 288 months. 288 months per cent.
Above 288 months, and not exceeding 300 months. 300 months per cent.
Above 300 months, and not exceeding 312 months. 312 months per cent.
Above 312 months, and not exceeding 324 months. 324 months per cent.
Above 324 months, and not exceeding 336 months. 336 months per cent.
Above 336 months, and not exceeding 348 months. 348 months per cent.
Above 348 months, and not exceeding 360 months. 360 months per cent.
Above 360 months, and not exceeding 372 months. 372 months per cent.
Above 372 months, and not exceeding 384 months. 384 months per cent.
Above 384 months, and not exceeding 396 months. 396 months per cent.
Above 396 months, and not exceeding 408 months. 408 months per cent.
Above 408 months, and not exceeding 420 months. 420 months per cent.
Above 420 months, and not exceeding 432 months. 432 months per cent.
Above 432 months, and not exceeding 444 months. 444 months per cent.
Above 444 months, and not exceeding 456 months. 456 months per cent.
Above 456 months, and not exceeding 468 months. 468 months per cent.
Above 468 months, and not exceeding 480 months. 480 months per cent.
Above 480 months, and not exceeding 492 months. 492 months per cent.
Above 492 months, and not exceeding 504 months. 504 months per cent.
Above 504 months, and not exceeding 516 months. 516 months per cent.
Above 516 months, and not exceeding 528 months. 528 months per cent.
Above 528 months, and not exceeding 540 months. 540 months per cent.
Above 540 months, and not exceeding 552 months. 552 months per cent.
Above 552 months, and not exceeding 564 months. 564 months per cent.
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Above 588 months, and not exceeding 600 months. 600 months per cent.
Above 600 months, and not exceeding 612 months. 612 months per cent.
Above 612 months, and not exceeding 624 months. 624 months per cent.
Above 624 months, and not exceeding 636 months. 636 months per cent.
Above 636 months, and not exceeding 648 months. 648 months per cent.
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Above 1980 months, and not exceeding 1992 months. 1992 months per cent.
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Above 4116 months, and not exceeding 4128 months. 4128 months per cent.
Above 4128 months, and not exceeding 4140 months. 4140 months per cent.
Above 4140 months, and not exceeding 4152 months. 4152 months per cent.
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Above 4308 months, and not exceeding 4320 months. 4320 months per cent.
Above 4320 months, and not exceeding 4332 months. 4332 months per cent.
Above 4332 months, and not exceeding 4344 months. 4344 months per cent.
Above 4344 months, and not exceeding 4356 months. 4356 months per cent.
Above 4356 months, and not exceeding 4368 months. 4368 months per cent.
Above 4368 months, and not exceeding 4380 months. 4380 months per cent.
Above 4380 months, and not exceeding 4392 months. 4392 months per cent.
Above 4392 months, and not exceeding 4404 months. 4404 months per cent.
Above 4404 months, and not exceeding 4416 months. 4416 months per cent.
Above 4416 months, and not exceeding 4428 months. 4428 months per cent.
Above 4428 months, and not exceeding 4440 months. 4440 months per cent.
Above 4440 months

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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...and that during the troubles in Hongkong when all the Chinese left the colony, only a few and another man remained. The usual practice was to give them a gratuity of \$100,000, but for the year ending 1913 the Government had only received \$15,000. But Sir Edward Macdonald's note on the petition was a recommendation to increase the amount by 50 per cent, a recommendation which was approved by the Executive Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY asked whether there was any further pension.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said there was no pension.

HIS EXCELLENCY said he would rather give him a pension, because he might lose this money, and be without means.

HIS EXCELLENCY thought that would be a very probable result.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that to give this man a pension would be to make him an exceptional case, as it was not the practice to place the Chinese employs on a footing with the Government servants.

HIS EXCELLENCY said if the object was to place the old man beyond the reach of future want, he should lean to giving him a pension.

MR. BYRNE and the ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE concurred.

HIS EXCELLENCY added that if the Council adopted this view they should accompany the vote with a declaration that it was passed under exceptional circumstances, and was not to be drawn into a precedent.

HIS EXCELLENCY said there would be more economical to the Government to let him go on his full salary.

THE ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER thought that the action from their rule might be taken in exceptional cases.

HIS EXCELLENCY thought the Government might also thought that others might be dissatisfied.

HIS EXCELLENCY then put the matter to the vote in the form of a resolution: (1) Shall the pension be sanctioned at all? (2) Shall it be a pension or gratuity. (Proposed and carried that it should be entertained.) (3) Shall it be a pension or gratuity. (Proposed and carried that it be a pension.) (4) What amount? (Proposed and carried that he receive \$2,000 per annum.)

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY proceeded to read a vote of \$2,000 for a dam at the Pokfulam Reservoir, by which the Surveyor-General computed that the Colony would be saved \$100,000. The work was at first estimated at \$4,000, but the work was now practically completed for the amount now asked for. The next sum was \$1,000 for walls on Possession Point, so as to render it suitable as a place of refuge for the Chinese of Tung-ping-shan. It was proposed to build this wall not only for the greater safety of those who were employed there, but for the protection of the houses to be planted nearby, it would render the place more secure.

MR. BYRNE asked whether the Chinese had been consulted, and the Acting Colonial Secretary thought that would have been a work of supererogation, while Mr. Keswick considered that it would improve it to build these walls, it should be done without reference to them.

The next vote proposed was \$2,000 for a market at Sowgwan, the present arrangement being that the Chinese Government should pay a sum of \$100 per annum as a gratuity to Mr. Alves second clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office for extra work which he had been called upon to do. This was proposed on Sir Edward Macdonald's recommendation, and he (the Acting Colonial Secretary) could testify that Mr. Alves was an efficient and valuable officer.

HIS EXCELLENCY then put the votes *seriatim*. That for the Medical Department being agreed to, the vote for the Education Department was proposed.

MR. BYRNE rose to say a few words on this. Last year he had suggested that the community would be very glad to see the Chinese Government undertake a good European school. This was not a good mean felt; particularly by a large number of heads of families, whose means were not such as to enable them to send their children home to be educated. It was not so much that their families growing up in comparative ignorance. He did not object to this vote now proposed, but he would be very glad to see the time when His Excellency should propose that the Chinese Government should be given financial assistance at first, as it would probably after a time become self-supporting.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said he had that was urged. Mr. Stewart with regard to the Education Department, was of the opinion that such a scheme should be carried out, and there was enough of detail now to enable the Governor to come to a conclusion on the subject. These papers were quite ready for his perusal.

HIS EXCELLENCY said if it would satisfy the hon. member, he might state, that he did without any hesitation, that he was in favour of the Chinese Government, and all Governments to place education within the reach of their subjects. He had not been aware that their want existed, but the papers which the Colonial-Secretary had laid on the table, showed that he would be very ready to give his attention to the subject.

THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE said the hon. member must allude to the want of a Protestant school, because there was now a European school.

MR. BYRNE said he referred to a European school.

The vote was then carried, was very great for the reason, &c., to *donations*.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the Government had been asked to place a dam reservoir in that place.

HIS EXCELLENCY, on laying the vote before him, Council, observed that if it met the Council's approval, it would be a very good thing for him to take steps to ascertain from the inhabitants in the neighbourhood whether they had any objection to the proposed alteration, or if at all events to explain to them the object of the scheme, and if they had any objection, the Government to appropriate the ground; and if there were any reasonable opposition, to defer taking any steps until the Council had been again consulted.

THE ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER said he thought it would be far better to let it out a larger sum and make a respectable place. He considered that if it was to be a place of refuge, it would be necessary to require as much supervision and work as was very unsightly. The neighbourhood was unquestionably low, and the constant presence of the police would be necessary to keep order. If the ground was to be a place of refuge, it would be necessary to keep order, and if there were any reasonable opposition, to defer taking any steps until the Council had been again consulted.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the alteration proposed was unquestionably desirable. He had no desire that it should not be carried out, but he wished to seek the views of the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY said he was not personally able to give any opinion, as he did not know the locality, but it certainly appeared him desirable to have another open space in the neighbourhood, and it would be better to give the vote, and in a little time he could take any responsibility that was necessary, and consulting the Council again. The further consideration of the vote was then postponed.

HIS EXCELLENCY then brought forward a vote of \$2,000 for the markets, observing that a system by which it was proposed to give the Chinese a place of refuge, and to prevent them from preventing this, as goods that had been stolen were not as a rule sold in markets.

THE ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER said if he was silent now he would be doing wrong, as the market question was a matter of great importance, and he thought the introduction of the market system for villages was not to be undertaken without full deliberation. It had proved, in fact, a disastrous affair, and had the effect of increasing the price of rice, and of causing the Chinese to be expelled to the villages, it would increase the cost of provision there to 15 per cent., and thus the step would result in a very great loss to the Government.

He then passed through the village of Shownkwan, and he had been doing

the disorder and cleanliness of the place. True, the shopkeepers infringed some distance into the public way to an unreasonable extent; but if they were not restrained by a market system would result in the same thing, that had occurred in Victoria, that is, the prices of provisions would immediately increase. He was quite certain it was not the intention of the Government to do anything of the kind. The market instead of being beneficial to the people would tend to make them suffer; and so much injured? When the Market Ordinance was passed, it was intended to be a benefit to the poor, but it has been perverted so that its effect has been only to increase prices. As a matter of fact, it was well known that there was a constant fight going on as it were between the market and the village. The price of rice was about 20 per cent cheaper than they were to be obtained in the market. That was the point to which he wished to direct His Excellency's attention before extending the system to other villages.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said his view was that the measure was advisable for other reasons than any connected with the increase of prices. It had the advantage of increasing the supply of goods, and of preventing the use of improper wares, which would be the case if there were no regulations. In all civilised countries the market was a recognised institution, and its principles so well acknowledged that it was not necessary to say more. If, indeed, should doubt the advisability of introducing it into the villages... There was no doubt that no such change could be instituted as would tend to raise prices. The measure was designed to prevent extortion, but to secure cleanliness, but this could not be done so long as people sold fish all along the village.

Hon. Mr. KEWICK regretted to disagree with the previous speaker, and wished to express his support of the Acting Colonial Treasurer. He thought that great injury had been done to the poorer classes by the monopoly which was maintained under the market system. If a place was simply left open, the poorer class would be at a disadvantage that everyone having nothing to dispose of could go there, and sell it, no injury would be done. The difference between the city and villages was not great—no country gentleman who last spoke. In the villages there was nothing which the ordinary police jurisdiction could not attend to, and he for one felt that the step proposed would do a great deal of good. It was undoubtedly very heavy on the poor. Everyone who had anything to sell should be allowed to do so, and no one should be permitted, because he had a stall, to charge anything he pleased.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY asked the Acting Colonial Treasurer what was the evidence upon which he based his conclusion. Was it in case of post hoc propter hoc, and did he conclude that the Market Ordinance had worked badly?

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER said he had based his conclusion, as he stated, on the prices of goods sold by hawkers in the streets. There were many small traders who bought goods from the Government, and they were obliged to bring them into a lair, and into the market, they fought against the law, and disposed of them in the street, he had said, in order to be quiet within their own persons. He pointed out that the things which were sold in the market were of better quality, but in many cases the difference was nearly 50 per cent, and this was a great punishment to the poorer classes. It was not that the Government established the system with that view, but that the Government had seen among themselves, by which the very measure which had been designed to secure free sale of goods was turned into the means of checking it. Were of course compelled to provide for the market, and the goods which should be sold only in the market-place, but with the kindest intentions of the Government, Chinese cunning had caused the community to suffer considerably. Therefore, to extend the market system in a moment would undoubtedly be an error.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the villagers had asked to have the market placed under the regulation.

Hon. Mr. KEWICK suggested that possibly they might do as was done in other places in cases of this kind, and that it would be no great extravagance on the part of the Government to put up a simple bamboo shed, where people might also come to buy their goods. He suggested that there was a matter of police regulation which worked well elsewhere, and might perhaps meet the evil complained of.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY said that the Government had considered the question of obtaining places would be more than six small poles three could cope with, and the increase in prices resulting from the market-tax would be very small, and only so much would be charged for the privilege of selling in the place called.

Hon. Mr. KEWICK said that he was not what he complained of. The objection was that people could make their own prices.

His EXCELLENCY.—By reason of monopoly of the market, the Government said that the market system were done away with it would have the effect of increasing the number of hawkers, which was very undesirable.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out that the measure would only apply to the villages.

His EXCELLENCY said that there had been sufficient stated to show him that the question was one to which it would be desirable to refer to the Council, and that he would like to vote whether the subject should be postponed.

The votes being taken, it was decided with two dissentients to postpone the discussion until the next meeting of the Council, and there being no further business, His Excellency adjourned the Council sine die.

As the Council was risen, His Excellency addressed the members of the Council, saying that he saw many of the native subjects of Her Majesty, and that he should be glad to see them, and that they wish to communicate with him though of course it was not his business to interfere them.

THE STANDING OF THE "HAILOONG."

The following despatch of the Court of Enquiry held on the above occurrence is published in the Hongkong Government Gazette:

FINDINGS OF FACTS.

1st.—The vessel, named "Hailoong," registered No. 65,692, of the Port of Aberdeen, sailed from Hongkong, bound for Swatow, with a general cargo, four Europeans, and about three hundred and fifty Chinese passengers and crew, on the 2nd April, at 10 o'clock, and arrived at Swatow, Cooch Behar, and Malacca.

2nd.—Owing to the heavy weather, it was found necessary to anchor in sheltered positions on the nights of the 1st and 2nd April.

3rd.—On the night of the 2nd April, the vessel was anchored in the "Whit Road," and at about half past seven A.M. without any indication of danger, started on her voyage, and was seen to be sinking situated in lat. 22° 54' North, long 118° 18' East, and commenced to fill rapidly.

4th.—The Captain and Officers appear to have used all proper efforts and means to avoid disaster, and to save the lives of the crew, and possibly, wisely determined to beach the vessel, and this was accomplished with safety "Tun-go" Roads, Westward of the "White Rocks," opposite to a village.

5th.—The vessel, after being beached, was landed, and subsequently terato, the whole of the Officers and Crew left in the Peninsula and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's steamer "Kaituma," bound for Hongkong, via the route "to Yokohama." The Master of the "Hailoong" remained by his vessel, placing himself and the steamer under the protection of a Chinese Government Officer.

6th.—The vessel was on shore for several days, and the steamer was ultimately fitted and conveyed to Hongkong sailing by H.M.G.S. boat "Elsie" and the steamer "Feronca."

7th.—The Court acquits the Master, and the Officers and Crew, of all blame in connection with the vessel on the rock, and considers the action taken by them after the accident to be deserving of praise.

8th.—The Court desires to express its appreciation of the services rendered by the Chinese Government Officers, and recommends that Her Majesty's Government should convey them a recognition of their commendable conduct.

9th.—The Court desires to bring to the knowledge of Government that the "Hailoong" came from Hongkong, with 150 Chinese passengers, prior to reaching this coast, where she was wrecked, and that the vessel carried on board 400 tons or more, for whose safety in event of accident, only three boats (capable of accommodating 75 persons) were provided.

Given under our hands at Hongkong, this
fourth day of April, 1872.

W. GARDNER, Acting Harbour Master.
G. L. LINTEDAY, Un-official Justice of the Peace.
DOWLING..... Masters, Mercantile Marine.
THOMAS CARTER,,
Confirmed, ANTHONY EDWARD KENNEDY, Godfather.

Hongkong, 27th April, 1872.

MEMBER OF COMMERCE MEETING.

At the Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce held on the 26th inst., Mr. Arthur Kennedy presided, assisted by Mr. R. Norris (chairman), the Hon. A. Greig, Messrs. James Wells, Hitchcock, Bell, Buxley, Bury, Sisson, Arthur, Kabin, Jordan, and W. M. Morgan.

The report of the proceedings of the pre-nomination meeting was taken up, and confirmed on the motion of Mr. Arthur, seconded by Mr. Kabin.

The Chairman then referred to the Report of the Committee on the following, which, having been agreed to only just before the meeting, could not be published before:—

REPORT.

The last half-yearly Meeting of the Chamber was held on the 13th September last, since which date but few new questions of interest have required the attention of the Committee, and they have now the pleasure of placing before its Members the following Report for the half-year ending December 31st, 1871.

Local Commissions and Brochures.

In the last half-yearly Report, the Committee promised to bring forward at this Meeting a revised scale of the present trade of the Colony for adoption by the Chamber.

As the General half-yearly Meeting held on November 16th, 1869, the Chamber adopted the published scale of the same, and since that time no change, which has taken place, has been made in the method of conducting, but in the business itself, of the Colony, have rendered it necessary to revise this list, in order to adapt it to the present state of things. After a general consideration of the whole subject, the Committee resolved to submit the maximum scale in Appendix A for adoption and sanction by the general body.

It is scarcely necessary in this connection, to remark the desirability of having for reference an authorized scale, which will carry with it the weight of having received the approbation and support of a large portion of the Community; and also, that if such a scale were once established, it would greatly aid that like scale has recently been adopted by the sister Chamber at Shanghai.

The Dialects of the Port by Chinese Customs Officers.

The Committee remarks they have nothing of a satisfactory nature to report in regard to this question. At the last half-yearly meeting, a resolution was passed to the effect that a memorial should be drawn up by the Committee, on the subject, and presented to His Majesty's Governor, and the States for the Colonies, but it has been found impossible to obtain any positive information in regard to the actual proceedings of these "Locking vessels," as it would either warrant the drawing up, or give rise to the drawing up, which to fund, the proposed memorial. The failure is owing to the fact that Chinese of all classes are adverse to giving information, which they think will involve them in any manner whatsoever, and they prefer rather than any personal discomfort or inconvenience.

There can be no doubt, however, that a regular system of espionage within, and a blockade outside, the Colony, is being maintained by the Chinese Government, and that junks from this harbor are overhauls at sea by steam cruisers, a direct violation of the Proclamation issued by the Viceroy of Canton, and the Government of the great Imperial Community of this port, deeply indebted to Sir Richard Graves MacDonnell, for the manner in which he advocates their interests in reference to this question, as obtained from the Commissioner of Customs, who has been mentioned above referred to, but on his being compelled from ill health proceed to Europe in 1870, the Chinese Government, with its customary disregard of promises and obligations, discontinued the same, and the Committee, through your Chairman, represented the matter again and again to the Colonial Secretary during the Governor's absence, but it would appear as if, without more power or lacked inclination interfere.

The non-official Members of Council have made angry representations, but with a result, which leaves much to be desired. The Governor, Mr. Arthur Kennedy, will allow the question to remain in its present unsatisfactory state, and that in any case will initiate a strict inquiry, and prevent a person directed to the Colony from rendering assistance, or in any way countenancing the vessels which so constantly frequent the harbor for no friendly purpose.

The blockade reports, the Chinese Government actually collects war tax and customs' duty within this Colony, and here again the inquiries of the Committee have been baffled by the unwillingness of the Chinese to furnish any information. They consider that it should be the duty of some of the officers who have gained knowledge of the Chinese language at the expense of this Colony, to discover whether this extraordinary demand for a Dependency of British Crown, which is declared to be a port, does or does not actually exist.

The Public Memorial to Lord Kimberley on the State of the Colony.

The main object of the letter by the community in September last upon this subject and the direct connection it bore to the trade and commercial prosperity of the Colony, is stated to the Committee the preceding year, enclosing a copy of the Memorial. This done in the Chairman's letter of September 29th, which, together with the courteous very satisfactory reply thereto, will be found in Appendix B.

Gambling.

This subject has lately so frequently placed in the Committee's Reports, that we have much satisfaction in hoping that it will be brought to rest. On the return of Richard Graves MacDonnell in December the licensing system was put an end to, just before his departure, His Excellency assured the Community that gambling would continue in the Colony as well might be expected. This statement should be received by the Club with much satisfaction, inasmuch as it once expressed its opinion that the suppression of Gambling was possible, but looking at the progress of the Colony, it is too much to expect, as expressed that His Excellency has not been deceived.

Chamber's Telegrams.

At the close of the present half-yearly Committee report, a proposal was made by the Member of Reuter's Telegraph Company for supply of the Members of the Chamber Commercial Telegrams. The terms of the proposal, after long and careful consideration, and the Committee generally submitted the individual subscribers to the Chamber Telegrams for approval, and it was there resolved to discontinue the former and accept the terms offered by Reuter, as it was believed for a reasonable cause, subscribers will receive not only reliable, but very full information. The Committee committee, however, although the Chamber's Telegrams had been approved, the Committee decided upon the consideration of the subject by them, and the late of the Secretary in compiling a Code (which is away, considerable) has not been the best way, inasmuch as it has caused the Chamber to take up the matter with Reuter Agent, and furthermore, the Chamber is not one to its premises made by them, to reveal ones to its own.

New Members.

D. Welsh, Esq., has been elected provisionally a Member of the Chamber, but according to rule, this election has to be confirmed by Meeting.

Funds.

The Secretary's Account current with the Chamber for the half-year ending December 31st, 1871, has been audited by Messrs. A. & C. McKellen, from which it appears that the balance in hand is £1,000.00 against the Chamber's account proper, and £1,000.00 Telegram fund. The annual subscription for the present year, amounting to £1,000.00, has been paid by the Chamber in ample for the current expenses of 1872.

The subscriptions collected for the Telegram account can be made up by the time now

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